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John Littlewood -

Book 1804

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION



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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES



Frontispiece.



A large Snake on a sudden started up from amongst some long Grass and coiled itself round little Tommy's leg.

THE
HISTORY
OF
SANDFORD and MERTON,
— *FOR THE USE OF* —
JUVENILE BRITONS.

Embellished with Eight Elegant
Copper Plate Prints.



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Published by Lumfden & Son at their
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THE
HISTORY
OF
SANDFORD AND MERTON.

CHAP. I.

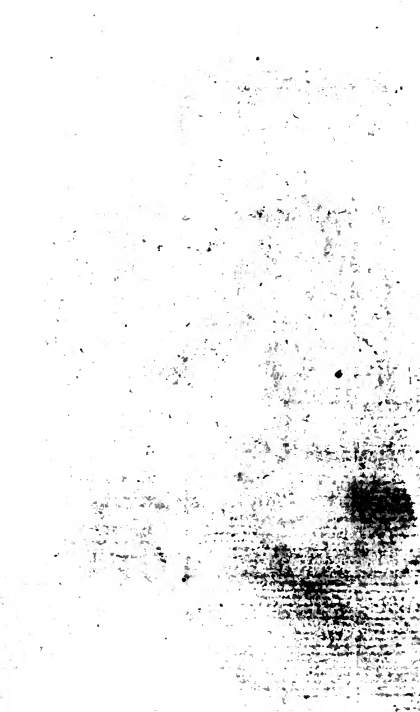
THE Hero of our history, Tommy Merton, was the only son of a gentleman of great fortune, who had large possessions in the island of Jamaica, but had come to reside, for some time, in the western part of England.

Having thus briefly stated the parentage of Master Tommy, we shall proceed to particulars respecting his conduct, but shall not presume to make any animadversions at present, as the narrative will be best calculated to shew the bent of his disposition.

When any company came to visit at their house, he was sure to behave in such a manner as disgusted every one present. He must have the first cut of every thing at dinner ; and at tea-time, the cups and saucers were frequently overset, by his eagerness to reach at a bit of toast, or any other favourite object he had in view.

When Tommy arrived in England, he was then six years of age ; he had not learned so much as to write or read, and, to complete his character, he was impatient, fretful, and proud.

A plain and honest farmer lived at no great distance from Mr. Merton's seat, who, like him, had an only son, but a few months older than Master Merton. His name was Harry Sandford. His obliging manners and affable temper made him beloved by every one ; and so tender were his feelings, that he would de-





ANDROULES and the LION

stroy no animal whatever, saying, that God had made nothing in vain, and we had no right to put an end to the existence of any creature he had been pleased to make.

Such amiable accomplishments as these drew on him the attention of the clergyman of the parish, who was so much pleased with him, that he taught him to read and write, and was always happy when young Harry was with him. Little Harry was an obliging creature, and cheerfully submitted to do whatever he was bidden, and was so much attached to truth, that he abhorred telling a lie on any occasion.

Accident happened to bring him and Tommy Merton together. The latter was one morning walking in the fields with his female attendant, when a large snake rushed from its concealed abode, and twined itself round one of the legs of poor Tom-

my. Harry, who happened to be at a little distance, saw all that passed, and instantly running to his assistance, seized the snake and relieved Tommy from his terror. Mrs. Merton hearing the shrieks of the maid, ran with half the family, to the assistance of her darling son, and finding he had received no injury from the cruel animal, inquired in what manner he had got rid of it. "Indeed, mamma (said Tommy), had not that little boy come to my assistance, I fear the nasty creature would have bitten me."

"Pray, my dear (said the lady), whose good boy are you, to whom I am so much obliged?"—"My name (said he) is Harry Sandford." Mrs. Merton then insisted that he should go home and dine with them; but Harry endeavoured to excuse himself, saying his father would want him. The matter, however, was

soon settled; Mrs. Merton sent a servant to the farmer, and, taking Harry by the hand, led him to her house, where every thing appeared quite new to him.

Dinner being over, the lady presented Harry with a glass of wine, which he thanked her for, but begged to be excused drinking it, saying, that his master, Mr. Barlow, told him, that he should never eat but when he was hungry, nor drink but when he was dry; that he should accustom himself to eat and drink those things only which are easily to be procured, as otherwise he might grow peevish and fretful when he could not get them.

Mr. Merton observed to his lady, that he wished Mr. Barlow would take their Tommy under his care, as he grew a great boy, and it was time he should learn something. After Harry was gone, a long conversation

took place between Mr. Merton and his lady, which concluded with an agreement between Mr. Merton and his wife, that their son Tommy should be put under the care of the same master as Harry. Mr. Barlow was accordingly invited the next Sunday to dinner, when Mr. Merton introduced the subject, and Tommy's parents delivered him into the hands of this good man, to tutor him as he thought best.

CHAP. II.

WE have now brought Tommy to the vicarage, which was about two miles from his father's house, to undergo a very material change in his temper and dispositions. The next morning after breakfast, Mr. Barlow conducted him and Harry into the garden. He then took a spade himself, gave a hoe to Harry, and they both began their

work. Tommy was invited to join them in their labour, but he rejected with contempt an offer which, he thought, was more proper to be made to a plough-boy than to a young gentleman of his fortune.

Mr. Barlow and Harry worked about two hours in the garden, and afterwards retiring to a summer-house, he took a plateful of cherries from a cupboard, and divided them between himself and Harry, without ever offering Tommy one, who undoubtedly expected his share. This put the youth into a fullen state, which at last found vent in tears. After demolishing the cherries, Harry proposed to read a lesson, to which Mr. Barlow agreed. This good boy then took up his book, and read the story of the Little Twins.

On their arrival at home to dinner, Tommy, who had been all this time rambling in the garden in a so-

litary manner, made his appearance, and, being very hungry, was going to sit down at the table with the rest; but Mr. Barlow observed to him, that as he was too much of a gentleman to think of working, he must go without victuals, as it was not reasonable that the industrious should work for the idle.

Mr. Barlow and Harry went the next morning to work as usual, when Tommy came to them, and desired that he also might have a hoe. Mr. Barlow instantly gave him one, and instructed him how to use it, so that in a short time, he became a good workman, and pursued his labour with pleasure. Their work being finished for that day, they all withdrew to the summer-house, and the joy of Tommy was inexpressible, when he found he was to have his share of the fruit.

From this time, Mr. Barlow and





THE BAD BOY SEIZED by the DOG

his two pupils worked every morning in the garden, and retired after their labour to the summer-house, where they refreshed themselves before dinner. By degrees, Tommy began to lament that he could not read, and at last spoke privately to Harry on the occasion, who very generously proposed to learn him. One day, being all three assembled in the summer-house, and the book being given to Harry, Tommy said, that, if Mr. Barlow would give him permission, he would try to read. Mr. Barlow replied, that he should have no objection, but he should as soon expect to see him fly as to read. He then took up the book, and with great fluency read the story of the Imprudent and Neglected Fair.

Having finished, “ I clearly see (said Mr. Barlow), that if young gentlemen will but take pains, they may do as well as others, and I have no

doubt, that Tommy will one day become a sensible man, and will hereafter be able to teach others."

Tommy was highly pleased with these praises, and determined to make himself as clever as other people.

The next day, being all three in the arbour together, Mr. Barlow desired Harry to read the story of Androcles and the Lion.

Androcles was a slave, who was so ill treated by his master, as to be forced to desert his service. He took refuge in a vast wood, and laid himself down at the mouth of a cavern. He had not lain long here, when an enormous lion came towards him, uttering a kind of mournful sound as if he needed assistance. Androcles perceiving that he did not set down his feet fully, boldly approached towards him, and examining his foot, perceived a large thorn sticking in it, which he immediately took out.—

The lion, finding himself eased, expressed the greatest joy.—Androcles having wandered one day too far from the cavern, was taken and carried to his master, who had him tried, and he was condemned to be put to death, by a furious lion being let loose upon him. Androcles, on the day set, was then brought forth, before an immense number of spectators, and the den being opened, the lion burst forth roaring like thunder; but judge their surprise, when instead of tearing him to pieces, he lay down at his feet calm and peaceable.—The multitude, amazed at this, called on Androcles to explain the circumstance, when he related how he had helped the lion in his distress, and that in gratitude he had now spared his life. Every one present was equally delighted and astonished at the honest narrative, and applying to the governor, Androcles

was pardoned, and presented with the lion, to whom he owed his life.

The story being finished, Tommy seemed vastly pleased with it, and Mr. Barlow observed, that even the most savage beast may be softened by gratitude, and moved by humanity.

CHAP. III.

TOMMY and Harry went the next day into the garden to sow some wheat, which Harry had brought with him from his father's, on a piece of ground which Tommy had dug and prepared for the purpose. After they had finished their labour, they returned into the house, when Mr. Barlow desired Tommy to read the history of the Good-natured Little Boy, which he accordingly did with a very clear and distinct voice.

Tommy expressed great satisfaction at the narrative. Mr. Barlow told him, that since he had been so well

pleased, Harry should read him the adventures of an Ill-natured Boy.

It was the misfortune of this boy to be brought up under parents who took no care of him, and as he was quarrelsome, he became disagreeable to every one. His father on a holiday having given him his liberty, a sixpence and some provisions, he took with him his dog Tiger, who in temper resembled himself, and set out on his ramble.

[Here the tale which Harry read, narrated the following instances of his mischievous disposition.—Meeting a flock of sheep, which a poor shepherd boy was driving, he set Tiger upon them, which immediately dispersed the whole in every direction.—Some time after, seeing a girl give a poor woman a drink of milk out of her jug, he came behind, and gave her a push, which overturned the whole upon her; and then ran

off laughing.—He next joined some boys at play, and seizing their ball when it came near him, he threw it into a muddy ditch. The little boys ran in a hurry to find it, and as they were standing one behind the other on the brink, he gave the boy furthest behind a violent push, and he pressing on the rest, they all tumbled into the ditch together. As soon as they got out, they were preparing to give him a sound drubbing; but he got Tiger between his legs, whom he clapped on his sides, and on the dog's shewing his teeth and grinning, they were afraid to proceed.—After several other tricks, which no good boy would have been guilty of, he came to a poor man asking charity of a lady, who gave him a few pence. He went up to him, and told him that he would not give him *pence*, but *silver*; then pulling out his sixpence, threw it on the ground, and bid him





TOMMY and HARRY in the WOOD

take it up; but, as the poor man was stooping for the purpose, he gave him a push, and the beggar fell upon his face, when he snatched up the sixpence, and ran away laughing.

His career of wickedness, was, however, now at an end; for observing two men coming up to the beggar, he ran away as fast as he could, over several fields. At last he came to a farmer's orchard, and, as he was clambering over the fence, a large dog seized him. Being frightened, he roared out lustily, which brought out the farmer, who called off his dog, but seized hold of the boy, saying, "So, my lad, I have caught you at last! You thought you might steal my apples when you pleased; but you are mistaken, and you shall now suffer for all." So saying, the farmer did not let him go till he had given him a severe whipping.

He now began to be sensible, that punishment does not fail at last to overtake the wicked; but the measure of his misfortunes was not yet completed. As he jumped down from a stile, he found himself in the hands of the lame beggar he had thrown on his face. He cried and begged pardon, but the lame man gave him a severe thrashing before he let him depart.

He again pursued his journey, and soon found himself surrounded by the boys he had so ill used in the morning. As soon as they saw him without his dog, who had been killed by the kick of an ass which he had set him upon, they set up a shout, and began to torment him different ways. Some pulled his hair, some pelted him with dirt, and others snapped their handkerchiefs at his legs. He endeavoured in vain to make his escape. At last, however, he hap-

pened to see the jack-afs he had tormented in the morning, when he sprung upon his back, hoping by that means to efcape. The afs instantly galloped away with him, and foon bore him from his enemies ; but the animal ftill keeping his pace, in fpite of the efforts of the Ill-natured Boy to prevent him, on a fudden ftopped fhort at the door of a cottage, and began kicking and prancing with fuch violence, that he threw the little boy from his back, and bruifed his leg. His cries brought out the family, and among them the young girl whofe milk he had fpilled. However, they took him in, and treated him kindly. He now determined, fhould he recover from this accident, he would in future ftudy to do good, and injure no perfon or animal any more.]

Tommy was vafly pleafed with this ftory, as it fhewed the difference

between being good and naughty. Every one loved and assisted the little Good-natured Boy, but every one punished and despised the other.

CHAP. IV.

TOMMY and Harry having taken it in their heads, that they would build them a house at the bottom of the garden, Mr. Barlow not only gave his consent, but went into the copse, to cut down poles proper for the purpose.

A few days after, they went to look at the house they had begun building, when they found that a hurricane, which had happened the preceding night, had levelled every stick with the earth.

The winter had now set in with its usual severity, so that the two youths were at present no longer able to pursue their labours in the garden; but they now and then took a walk

in the air. It unfortunately happened, that, in passing through a wood, they wandered from the right path, and could not tell where they were. To add to their distress, the wind from the north began to blow with great fury, and so violent a fall of snow came on as obliged them to seek shelter. After remaining some time in the hollow of a tree, the storm greatly abated, when they began their march through the snow, which had completely covered every track, and what was worst of all, the day began to close. At length, however, they came to some lighted embers, which probably some labourers had just quitted. Harry then got together all the dry pieces of wood he could find, and placing them on the embers, they soon caught fire, which afforded them a comfortable warmth.

While they were conversing to-

gether, a little boy came along singing, with a bundle of sticks on his shoulder, whom Harry happened to know. In fact, he was the very little ragged boy to whom Tommy had given some clothes in the summer. Harry instantly spoke to him, and desired him to shew them the way out of the wood, which he readily consented to, but advised them to go first to his father's house, and, while they warmed themselves, they would send to Mr. Barlow to acquaint him where they were. The honest farmer then went and acquainted Mr. Barlow of the safety of his pupils, which gave infinite satisfaction to that reverend gentleman, as he had dispatched people everywhere in pursuit of them.

Tommy had heard Mr. Barlow give an account in what manner the Kamtschatkan dogs drew their sledges, and he determined to make an expe-

riment of that nature. Being one day perfectly disengaged from business, he furnished himself with some rope, and a kitchen chair, which he intended to make use of instead of a sledge. He then coaxed Cæsar into a large yard behind the house, and placing the chair flat on the ground, he fastened the dog to it, with great care, and no small share of ingenuity. Cæsar, however, did not understand being harnessed, and was ignorant of the part he was to act. At last Tommy mounted his seat triumphantly, with a whip in his hand, and began his career.

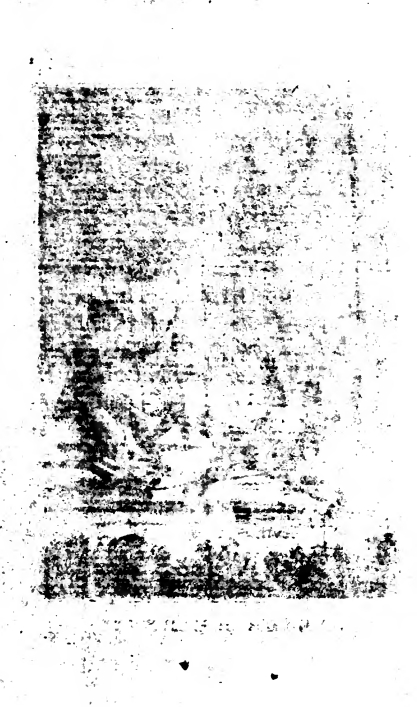
A number of the neighbouring little boys gathered round the young gentleman, which made him the more anxious to distinguish himself. Tommy began to make use of those expressions to his dog, which he had heard coachmen apply to their horses, and smacked his whip with great con-

sequence. Cæsar was very angry at this, and instantly set off at full speed, dragging the chair, with the driver upon it, at a prodigious rate.

Tommy now looked about him with a triumphant air, and maintained his seat with great firmness. Unfortunately, however, at no great distance was a large horse-pond, which gradually shelved to the depth of three or four feet. The afrighted Cæsar ran thither, in hopes of getting rid of his tormentor ; while Tommy in vain endeavoured to pacify and restrain his steed. Cæsar, without paying any regard to his driver, precipitately rushed into the pond, and carried both carriage and driver into the middle of it. The boys who were spectators, now received fresh matter of diversion, and, notwithstanding their respect for Tommy, they could not help uttering loud shouts of derision. One day, a bull was to be baited.



CAESER in HARNESS



in the neighbourhood of Mr. Merton's, where Tommy had gone on a visit to his father, when he and all his gay and flighty companions stole away to see it, and Harry reluctantly followed them at a distance.

While this inhuman spectacle was going forward, a poor half-naked black came to them, and humbly implored their charity. Finding he could get nothing from them, he approached the place where Harry stood, holding out the remains of his tattered hat. Harry put his hand in his pocket, and gave him the only sixpence he had.

The dogs now attacked the bull with such fury, that the animal became mad and outrageous. The furious animal ran towards the spot where Tommy and his associates stood, and put them to flight; but the bull was too swift for them, and Tommy stumbling and falling to the ground, lay

directly in the way of his pursuing enemy!—Harry then caught up a prong, which had been dropped by one of the fugitives, and at the very instant the bull was stooping to revenge himself on the defenceless Tommy, he gave him a deep wound in the flank. The animal turned round, and it is probable that his life would have paid for the salvation of his friend, had not the generous black, to whom he had just before given sixpence, instantly fled to his assistance. With a large stick he had in his hand, he gave the bull so violent a blow as called off his attention from Harry. He instantly turned round to his new enemy, who dexterously shifted from him, and got hold of his tail, by which he held fast, and so belaboured the bull with his stick, that he was at last obliged to lie down, when they threw a rope over his horns, and fastened him to a tree.

The next day Tommy rose before his father and mother, and, as his mind was much impressed with the story read the preceding evening, in which he had discovered the wonderful exploits of some Arabian horsemen, he begged his little horse might be saddled for him. He accordingly put on his boots, and ordered William to attend him. However, as he dared not ask for spurs, he went to one of the maids, and got from her two large pins, which he very ingeniously stuck into his boots, and then mounted his horse.

He had not ridden far, before he gave his horse a very sharp prick with his pins. The animal set off with him at full gallop, and William knew not whether this sudden start was from accident or design.—Seeing, however, that the horse galloped over the roughest part of the common, while Tommy used all his

efforts to stop him, he thought it prudent to endeavour to overtake him, and therefore pursued him with all possible speed. The race continued without any appearance of abatement; when the poney turned short on a sudden, upon an attempt of his master to stop him, and rushed into a quagmire. This stopped him for a moment, and gave Tommy an opportunity of slipping off his back into a soft bed of mire. The servant had now time to get up to Tommy, and rescue him from his disagreeable situation, where he had received no other damage than that of daubing his clothes.

Tommy being arrived within a short distance of the house, met his father and Mr. Barlow, who were walking to enjoy the morning air. They were surprised at the bespattered appearance Tommy made. The youth, however, without giving

time to make any inquiries, ran up to the gentlemen, and wished them a good morning. Mr. Merton was very glad to find his son was not hurt, for he doubted not, from the situation of his clothes, that he had fallen from a horse, which was presently confirmed by the appearance of William, who was leading the poney.

After dinner a very interesting conversation took place between Mr. Barlow and his pupil Tommy, who confessed that he had been a very unthinking boy. Mr. Barlow told him, that to be sensible of his fault was half-way to a reformation, and therefore begged he would open his mind without the least reserve. "Since I have been at home, Sir," said Tommy, "I have been surrounded by a number of fine young gentlemen and ladies, who, because their parents are rich, thought they

had a right to despise every one who was poor. They were always laughing at poor Harry Sandford, and at last brought me to slight his company." Tommy then went on to acquaint Mr. Barlow with all the ill treatment he had been guilty of to his friend Harry, and concluded with asking, if he thought it possible that Harry would ever forgive him.

Our little gentleman here burst into a flood of tears, and Mr. Barlow, after having suffered him to ease his mind that way, told him he must ask Harry's pardon. To this Tommy consented, and he promised to go directly, and beg Harry's forgiveness. As his preceptor was now sensible of his contrition, he said he would go to young Sandford, and hear what he thought of the meeting.

Mr. Barlow waited on Harry, and having obtained his consent to an



THE BULL BAITING



interview, and acquainted Tommy therewith, they both set out next morning for Mr. Sandford's. When they were within a little of the house, Tommy saw Harry driving his father's sheep home. He ran hastily to meet him, and a reconciliation immediately took place.

Tommy then proposed staying some time with Harry, which was highly approved of by Mr. Barlow, who took upon himself to answer for the consent of Mr. Merton; and then, after taking a complaisant leave of the company, he went to his own house.

Our young gentleman was now embarked in a new scene of life, very different from that he had been hitherto engaged in. He supped heartily that night on the rustic fare he met with, went to bed early, and slept soundly. When Harry called him at five the next morning, according to agreement the over night, he

found some difficulty in complying with the summons; but, when he recollected that his word and honour were at stake, he immediately jumped out of bed, dressed himself, and accompanied Harry in all his rustic employments.

From being accustomed to view scenes of distress, his heart began to be more sensible of the tender feelings of humanity; and from the observations he had daily occasion to make, he learned to know of what utility the labourer was to the community. Mr. Barlow paid him frequent visits, and pointed out every thing to him that was most worthy of his notice.

Our young gentleman was one day surprised by an unexpected visit from his father. The meeting was equally affectionate on both sides, for Tommy was become another boy. His father told him, he was come to

take him back to his own house, having heard such an account of his present behaviour, that all his former errors were forgiven, and that he began to glory in owning him as his son. Tommy mutually met the embraces of his father, and consented to return home to his mother, that he might, by his future conduct, convince her of the happy alteration made in his temper.

Farmer Sandford was at this instant returning from the fields, and very respectfully invited Mr. Merton to walk in, when the latter called the former aside, as if he had something to say to him in private. When they were alone, Mr. Merton thanked the farmer for the infinite services he and his family had been of to his son, in working so happy a reformation. He then pulled out a pocket-book, and begged Mr. Sandford would accept of it and its contents. The far-

mer taking the book and looking into it, found it contained bank-notes of great value. He therefore shut it up again, and politely returned it to Mr. Merton, begging to be excused the acceptance of it.

Mr. Merton here interrupted the farmer, and earnestly pressed him to accept of his present; but he persisted in his refusal, saying, " Sir, were such a sum mentioned to them as you have been pleased generously to offer me, there would be an end to all peace in the family. It would be no longer Deb and Kate, but Miss Deborah and Miss Catharine. The next thing would be, they must be sent to a boarding-school to learn French and music, and to cut capers about the room. When they come back, there would be a dispute about who was to look after the boiling of the pot, make the puddings, sweep the house, and feed the chickens and pigs; for such

vulgar things as these are not to be done by a delicate miss."

Mr. Merton could not avoid being struck with this reasonable mode of arguing, and sensibly felt the truth of his observation. He therefore pressed him no longer to accept the present, as he found it was to no purpose; and Mrs. Sandford coming at this instant to invite them in to dinner, they went immediately into the house, and, after Mr. Merton had paid his respects to the family, they all sat down to dinner.

As soon as dinner was over, the cloth was removed, and the silver mug, the only article of luxury in his house, had been two or three times replenished, when little Harry Sandford came running in, crying, "Father! father! here is the sweetest team of horses, all of a size and colour, with new harness, and make the finest figure I ever saw in my life. They

all stopped at our door, and the man says he has orders to deliver them to you."

Mr. Sandford, surprised as well as his son, at the orders he had heard, said, " Mr. Merton, I suppose these horses are a new purchase, and that you want to have my opinion of them. I can assure you they are the true Suffolk sorrels, the finest breed of working horses in the kingdom, and these appear to me to be some of the best of that sort."

Mr. Merton replied, " that such as they were, they were at his service. I cannot think (said he), after the singular favours I have received from your family, you will so far displease me as to refuse this mark of my gratitude." Mr. Sandford was lost in astonishment, and knew not what answer to make. At length, however, recovering himself, he was going to make the politest refusal he could



TOMMY'S DISASTER



think of, when Tommy coming in, took Mr. Sandford by the hand, and begged he would not be so unkind as to refuse his father and himself the first favour they had ever asked him to grant them. He also reminded him that this present was less to him than it was to little Harry, his dear companion; and, after having lived so long in his family, he hoped he would not treat him as if his conduct had been improper. Harry himself here interposed, and considering the feelings and intentions of the giver more than the value of the present, he took his father by the hand, and begged him to oblige Mr. Merton and his son. Mr. Sandford's delicacy was now quite conquered, and he at last consented that the horses should be led into his stables.

Mr. Merton having expressed every mark of tenderness and affection to this worthy family, not even for-

getting the honest black, for whom he promised to provide, he desired his son to accompany him home. Tommy arose, and with the sincerest gratitude and affection, took his leave of his friend Harry, and of all the rest of the family. "It will not be long before I shall see you again," said he to Harry, "for to your example I owe the little good I have to boast of. You have made me sensible, how much better it is to be useful than to be rich or fine, and that it is more amiable to be good than great." Tommy and Harry then most affectionately embraced each other, shed the tear of sincere friendship, and then parted, when Mr. Merton conducted his son home.



